

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-10

MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 /120 W

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P 071800Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6207

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PBOR, MOPS, ZA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON KARIBA ATTACK

REF: PRETORIA 2762 (NOTAL),

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT WE ARE ADVISED RHODESIAN REGIME ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON, JUNE 7, ON ZAMBIAN ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST KARIBA, JUNE 4.

2. "LAST SATURDAY AN UNPROVOKED ROCKET ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED ON KARIBA FROM ZAMBIA, CAUSING SOME DAMAGE TO CIVILIAN TARGETS, AND TWO CIVILIAN MINOR CASUALTIES... THIS ACTION CAN BE CONTRASTED WITH LAST WEEK'S OPERATION INTO MOCAMBIQUE BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES, WHICH WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTLY SOLELY AGAINST TERRORISTS OPERATING FROM MOCAMBIQUE INTO RHODESIA, AND SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED INVOLVEMENT WITH INNOCENT CIVILIANS. THE RHODESIAN OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE DEFENCE OF RHODESIA AGAINST TERRORISM AND OF THE MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY. THE INDISCRIMINATE MISSILE ATTACK FROM ZAMBIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS

COMPLETELY UNPROVOKED AND WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A CRIMINAL ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST BLACK AND WHITE CIVILIANS, AS WELL AS FOREIGN TOURISTS. THE USE OF MISSILES, NOT MEN, DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE GRAVITY OF THE ATTACK.

3. "IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO COMPARE THE REACTION OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO THE RHODESIAN OPERATION, WITH THE THUNDERING SILENCE WE NOW HEAR FROM LONDON AND WASHINGTON.

4. "DR. OWEN DESCRIBED THE RHODESIAN MILITARY ACTION IN MOCAMBIQUE AS "NOT ONLY THREATENING THE BRITISH-UNITED STATES' PEACE EFFORTS, BUT IT COULD WELL TRIGGER OFF A SDRIOUS MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE AREA". DO NOT DR. OWNE AND HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS CONSIDER ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS MORE LIKELY TO THREATEN THE PEACE EFFORT AND FAR MORE WORTHY OF CONDEMNATION, OR IS THIS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE DOUBLE STANDARDS SO OFTEN APPLIED BY THE WESTERN POWERS WHEN DEALING WITH MATTERS RELATING TO RHODESIA?

5. "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT SAID LAST WEEK THAT "WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE RHODESIANS THAT WE DISAPPORVE OF THEIR MILITARY ACTIONS". WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOW PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR DISAPPROVAL TO ZAMBIA OF THE ZAMBIAN ACTION?

6. "DR. OWEN HAS CALLED ON THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SINCERITY IN ITS DESIRE TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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CALLS ON THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SINCERITY BY CONDEMNING THIS LATEST ZAMBIAN ACTION, WHICH IS BY NO MEANS THEIR FIRST UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN TARGETS, AND BY TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO DISCOURAGE THE ZAMBIANS FROM TAKING FURTHER SUCH ACTION.

7. " A FINAL POINT THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT COULD WELL BEAR IN MIND IS THAT ZAMBIA STILL DRAWS A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF HER POWER REQUIREMENTS FROM THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME ON THE RHODESIAN BANK AT KARIBA, THE VERY PLACE WHICH SHE HAS SO PROVOCATIVELY ATTACKED.

8. "IT IS HOPED THAT THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT WILL RESTRAIN HIS TROOPS FROM FURTHER UNPROVOKED ATTACKS ON RHODESIAN AND FOREIGN CIVILIANS. SUCH HOSTILITIES CAN ONLY LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT WHICH COULD IN TURN BE HARMFUL TO ZAMBIA'S ECONOMY AND INCREASE RATHER THAN LESSEN TENSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."BOWDLER

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